

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 7-8, 10, 12-13, and 15-17 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6, and 11 stand allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6, 11, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 9, 14, and 18-20, as understood in view of the above 112, second paragraph rejection, stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Koshikawa, U.S. patent 6,272,057.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18 and 19 have been amended to more clearly state the invention. Indicated allowable claims 3 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Dependent claims 2, 4-9 and 11-17 depend from respective rewritten indicated allowable claims 3 and 10. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Independent method claim 18 has been amended to recite subject matter of indicated allowable claims 3 and is believed to stand in condition for allowance together with dependent claims 19 and 20. Reconsideration and allowance of each of the pending claims 2-20, as amended is respectfully requested.

Koshikawa, U.S. patent 6,272,057 discloses a semiconductor memory device that is designed to speed up the selection of a word line. The semiconductor memory device comprises a plurality of normal row decoders for decoding input row address data for specifying word lines when access is made to those of memory cells of

a memory cell array which are other than a redundant row of memory cells, thereby selecting those word lines to which those memory cells that are other than the redundant row of memory cells are connected; a redundant row decoder for specifying that word line to which the redundant row of memory cells is connected when access is made to any memory cell which belongs to the redundant row; decision means for determining whether or not to select a memory cell belonging to the redundant row based on the input row address data and selecting the redundant row decoder when selecting the memory cell belonging to the redundant row; and control means for changing only those word lines which are connected to the normal row decoders from an active state to a standby state based on a decision output of the decision means when the decision means has determined to select a memory cell belonging to the redundant row when changing the word lines connected to the normal row decoders from a standby state to an active state.

Independent claim 18, as amended, recites the steps of providing a miscompare detector having a plurality of compare field effect transistors coupled between a common precharge node and a common discharge node for comparing a current address to be accessed with a memory defect address; said miscompare detector providing an enable redundant wordline signal responsive to a match of the compared addresses; providing a deactivate driver circuit coupled to said miscompare detector, responsive to said enable redundant wordline signal, for generating a reset signal for disabling non-redundant wordlines; and providing a redundant driver coupled to said miscompare detector, responsive to said enable redundant wordline signal, for

Serial No. 10/600,064

activating a redundant wordline for said memory defect address.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention of independent claim 18, as amended, is patentable over all the art of record, including Koshikawa, U.S. patent 6,272,057. Independent claim 18, as amended, includes subject matter of indicated allowable claim 3 and Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 18 is patentable for the same reasons as indicated allowable claim 3.


Dependent claims 19 and 20 further define the invention of patentable claim 18, and are likewise patentable.

Applicants have reviewed all the art of record, and respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over all the art of record, including the references not relied upon by the Examiner for the rejection of the pending claims.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and allowance of each of the pending claims 2-20 is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Joan Pennington
Reg. No. 30,885
Telephone: (312) 670-0736